TRANSLATION OF ARTICLE 19 AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims

1. (Amended) An image decoding apparatus for performing a decoding process under a prescribed coding method, comprising:

decoding means for performing the decoding process on picture data encoded with the coding method; and

control means for controlling the decoding means, wherein,

in a fast playback mode, said control means controls said decoding means by selectively performing a first process to extract and decode an I-picture and following prescribed pieces of P-pictures on a basis of the I-picture locating at a desired position in the picture data, a second process to decode only spatial prediction based on a prediction method signal obtained through reversible encoding, a third process to decode only direct current components of transformation coefficients with transformation coding, or a fourth process that is a combination of the second and third processes.

2. The image decoding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

said control unit controls said decoding means so as to decode the I-picture and each of the P-pictures composing the simple playback frames in order, without decoding a part after the simple playback frames, in a case where the fast playback mode is fast forward playback, and controls said decoding means so as to find a part before the simple playback frames, sequentially decode

the I-picture and each of the P-pictures composing the simple playback frames, and output the simple playback frames in a reverse order of a decoding order, in a case where the fast playback mode is fast backward playback.

3. (Deleted)

4. (Amended) An image decoding method for performing a decoding process under a prescribed coding method, wherein,

in a fast playback mode, a first process to extract and decode an I-picture and following prescribed pieces of P-pictures on a basis of the I-picture locating at a desired position in picture data encoded with the coding method, a second process to decode only spatial prediction based on a prediction method signal obtained through reversible encoding, a third process to decode only direct current components of transformation coefficients with transformation coding, or a fourth process that is a combination of the second and third processes is selectively performed.

5. The image decoding method according to claim 4, wherein:

in a case where the fast playback mode is fast forward playback, the I-picture and each of the P-pictures composing the simple playback frames are decoded in order, without decoding a part after the simple playback frames; and

in a case where the fast playback mode is fast backward

playback, a part before the simple playback frames is found, the I-picture and each of the P-pictures composing the simple playback frames are decoded in order, and the simple playback frames are decoded in a reverse order of a decoding order.

6. (Deleted)